Please amend claims 5-6 as follows:

5. (Twice Amended) [The] An optical disc [as claimed in claim 1] comprising:

a main area storing digital data, said main area being divided into a plurality of zones; and

a spare area having an area within each of said zones of said main area,

wherein at least one area of said spare area varies in size relative to at least one other area of said spare area, wherein said optical disc is divided into 23 zones, and the rates of said spare areas are set such that zone 0 is to 10.73%, zone 1 is to 10.75%, zones 2 and 3 are to 8.06%, zones 4 and 5 are to 5.37%, zones 6 and 7 are to 2.68%, zones 8 to 12 are to 2.69%, zones 13 to 15 are to 2.68%, zones 16 and 17 are to 2.69%, zones 18 and 19 are to 5.37%, zone 20 is to 8.06%, [Zone] zone 21 is to 8.05%, zone 22 is to 10.74%, and zone 23 is to 10.73%.

6. (Twice Amended) [The] An optical disc [as claimed in claim 1] comprising:

a main area storing digital data, said main area being divided into a plurality of zones; and

a spare area having an area within each of said zones of said main area,

wherein at least one area of said spare area varies in size relative to at least one other area of said spare area, wherein said optical disc is divided into 23 zones, and the rates of said spare areas are set such that zone 0 is to 8.05%, zones 1 to 3 are to 8.06%, zones 4 and 5 are to 5.37%, zones 6 and 7 are to 2.68%, zones 8 to 12 are to 2.69%, zones 13 to 15 are to 2.68%, zones 16 to 18 are to 5.37%, zones 19 and 20 are to 8.05%, zones 21 and 22 are to 8.05%, and zone 23 is to 8.72%.

Please add the following claims:

33. An optical disk, comprising:

a series of several main areas and arranged to store digital data; and

a series of contiguous spare areas, each main area corresponding to a respective single one of the contiguous spare areas, a ratio between a size of each main area to a size of a corresponding contiguous spare area being varied.

34. The optical disk of claim 33, wherein each of the contiguous spare areas is positioned adjacent to a corresponding one of the series of main areas.

35. The optical disk of claim 33, wherein the ratio between the size of a spare area and the size of a corresponding main area depends upon a thickness of the disk at the position of the main area.

36. The optical disk of claim 33, wherein the ratio between the size of a spare area and the size of a corresponding main area depends upon a radial position of the main area on the disk.

37. The optical disk of claim 33, wherein the ratio of the size of the spare areas to the size of the corresponding main areas increases in an inner radial direction of the disk.

38. The optical disk of claim 33, wherein the ratio of the size of the spare areas to the size of the corresponding main areas increases in an outer radial direction of the disk.

39. A method for setting spare areas of corresponding main zones of an optical disk, said method comprising:

configuring an optical disk with a series of several main areas structured and arranged to store digital data, each main area having a single contiguous spare area associated therewith; and

variably setting a ratio between a size of each contiguous spare area to a size of each main area associated therewith.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein each of the contiguous spare areas is positioned adjacent to a corresponding one of the series of main areas.

41. The method of claim 39, wherein the ratio between the size of a spare area and the size of a corresponding main area depends upon a thickness of the disk at the position of the main area.

42. The method of claim 39, wherein the ratio between the size of a spare area and the size of a corresponding main area depends upon a radial position of the main area on the disk.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein the ratio of the size of the spare areas to the size of the corresponding main areas increases in an inner radial direction of the disk.

44. The method of claim 39, wherein the ratio of the size of the spare areas to the size of the corresponding main areas increases in an outer radial direction of the disk.